Privatisation of production and distribution of LPG

3039. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made, so far, in privatisation of production, import, bottling and distribution of LPG (Domestic and commercial); and

(b) how the cost and pricing structure of the private sector compare with that of the public sector oil companies for production/import to the consumer stage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Government have allowed private parties to import and market LPG in the country at market determined prices under Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS) since 1993. Up to 30th June, 2000, 23 parties have imported about 788 TMT of LPG (Bulk) under PMS.

(b) The LPG (domestic) marketed by Public Sector Oil Companies is under Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), whereas parallel marketeers are free to fix the price of LPG marketed by them.

OFF-shore drilling by ONGC in Krishna-Godavari basin

3040. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the deepest off-shore drilling made by ONGC, so far, for crude/Natural gas in Krishna-Godavari Basin; and

(b) the action proposed to obtain a rig which can drill upto 2000 meters depth off-shore for enhancing and improving recoveries by adopting new technologies in that basin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The deepest off-shore drilling by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) so far for oil and gas in Krishna Godavari Basin is at well No. KD-1-1 (KD-AA) at a water depth of 843 metres.

(b) ONGC have a deep water rig, which has been upgraded to take up drilling of wells upto water depth of 900 metres. ONGC have planned alliances with multinational companies having expertise in deep-sea Exploration and Production activities, for which Government have accorded permission while extending the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) terms to six deep-